

MAJOR MAHON'S APARTMENTS.

FROM JACK HINTON'S LAST NUMBER.

[Lieut. Hinton, the English hero in Ireland of the autobiography, has been involved in a quarrel and is to fight a duel with an Irish gentleman, Jack Burke, and while he is talking the matter over, the evening before the meeting, with his Irish second, Major Mahon, the latter relates the following personal reminiscence, by way of illustrating the manners of the Country:]

"Tom, here, doesn't like a story at supper," said the major, pompously, for, perceiving our attitude of attention, he resolved on being a little tyrannical before telling it.

The priest made immediate submission; and, slyly hinting that his objection only lay against stories he had been hearing for the last thirty years, said he could listen to the narration in question with much pleasure.

"You shall have it, then," said the major, as he equaled himself in his chair, and thus began—

"You have never been in Castle Connell, Hinton? Well, there is a wide, bleak lake of country there, that stretches away to the westward, with nothing but large, round-backed mountains, low, boggy swamps, with here and there a miserable mud-novel, surrounded by, maybe, half an acre of lumps, or bad ones; a few small streams struggle through this on their way to the Shannon, but they are brown and dirty as the soil they traverse; and the very fish that swim in them are brown and smutty also.

"In the very heart of this wild country, I took it into my head to build a house. A strange notion it was, for there was no neighborhood and no sporting; but, somehow, I had taken a dislike to mixed society some time before that, and I found it convenient to live somewhat in retirement; so that, if the partridges were not in abundance about me, neither were the process-servers; and the truth was, I kept a much sharper look-out for the sub-sheriff than I did for the snipe.

"Of course, as I was over head and ears in debt, my notion was to build something very considerable and imposing; and to be sure, I had a fine portico, and a flight of steps leading up to it; and there were ten windows in front, and a grand balustrade at the top; and, faith, taking it all in all, the building was so strong, the walls so thick, the windows so narrow, and the stones so black, that my cousin, Darcy Mahon, called it Newgate; and not a bad name either—and the devil another it ever went by; and even that same had its advantages; for when the creditors used to read that at the top of my letters, they'd say—'Poor devil! he has enough on his hands: there's no use troubling him any more.' Well, but as Newgate looked from without, it had not much accommodation when you got inside. There was, 'tis true, a fine hall, all flagged; and, out of it, you entered what ought to have been the dinner-room, thirty-eight feet by seven and twenty, but which was used for herding sheep in winter. On the right hand there was a cozy little breakfast-room, just about the size of this we are in. At the back of the hall, but concealed by a pair of folding doors, there was a grand staircase of old Irish oak, that ought to have led up to a great suite of bedrooms; but it only conducted to a small little crib I had for myself. The remainder were never plastered nor floored; and, indeed, in one of them, that was over the big drawing-room, the joists were never laid, which was all the better, for it was there we used to keep our hay and straw.

"Now, at the time I mention, the harvest was not brought in, and instead of its being full, as it used to be, it was mighty low; so that, when you opened the door above stairs, instead of finding the hay up beside you, it was about fourteen feet down beneath you.

"I can't help boring you with all these details: first, because they are essential to my story; and next, because, being a young man, and a foreigner to boot, it may lead you to a little better understanding of some of our national customs. Of all the partialities we Irish have after lush and the adies, I believe our ruling passion is to build a big house, spend every shilling we have, or that we have not, as the case may be, in getting it half-finished, and then live in a corner of it, 'just for grandeur,' as a body may say. It's a droll notion, after all; but show me the country in Ireland that hasn't at least six specimens of what I mention.

"Newgate was a beautiful one; and although the sheep lived in the parlor, and the cows were kept in the blue drawing-room, Darby White slept in the boudoir, and two bull-dogs and a buck goat kept house in the library—faith, upon the outside it looked very imposing; and not one that saw it, from the high road to Ennis—and you could see it for twelve miles in every direction—didn't say—'That Mahon must be a snug fellow—look what a beautiful place he has of it there.' Little they knew that it was safer to go up the 'Reeks' than my grand staircase, and it was like rope-dancing to pass from one room to the other.

"Well, it was about four o'clock in the afternoon of a dark, luring day in December, treading home-wards in no very good humor, for, except a brace and a half of snipe, and a gray plover, I had met with nothing the whole day. The night was falling fast; so I began to hurry on as quickly as I could, when I heard a loud shout behind me, and a voice called out—

"It's Bob Mahon, boys! By the hill of Scariff, we are in luck!"

"I turned about, and what should I see but a parcel of fellows in red coats—they were the blazers. There was Dan Lambert, Tom Burke, Harry Eyre, Joe McMahon, and the rest of them: fourteen souls in all. They had come down to draw a cover of Stephen Blake's, about ten miles from me; but, in the strange mountain country, they lost the dogs; they lost their way and their temper; in truth, to all appearance, they lost every thing but their appetites. Their horses were dead beat, too, and they looked as miserable a crew as ever you set eyes on.

"Isn't it lucky, Bob, that we found you at home?" said Lambert.

"They told us you were away," says Burke.

"Some said that you were grown so pious, that you never went out except on Sundays," added old Harry, with a grin.

"Regad," said I, "as to the luck, I won't say much for it; for here's all I can give you for your dinner; and so I pulled out the four birds and shook them at them; and as to piety, though, maybe, you'd like to keep a fast with as devoted a son of the church as myself."

"But isn't that Newgate up there?" said one.

"That same."

"And you don't mean to say that such a house as that isn't a good larder, and a fine cellar?"

"You're right," said I, "and they're both full at the present moment—the one with seed potatoes, and the other with Whitehaven coals."

"Have you got any bacon?" said Mahon.

"Oh, yes," said I, "there's bacon."

"And eggs," said another.

"For the matter of that, you might swim in batter."

"Come, come," said Dan Lambert, "we're not so badly off after all."

"Is there whiskey?" cried Eyre.

"Sixty-three gallons that never paid the king sixpence."

"As I said this, they gave three cheers you'd have heard a mile off.

"After about twenty minutes' walking, we got up to the house, and when poor Darby opened the door, I thought he'd faint; for, you see, still the red coats made him think it was the army, coming to take me away; and he was for running off to raise the country, when I caught him by the neck.

"It's the blazers! ye old fool," said I. "The gentlemen are come to dine here."

"Hurro!" said he, clapping his hands on his knees—there must be great distress entirely, down about Nenagh and them parts, or they'd never think of coming here for a bit to eat."

"Which way lie the stables, Bob?" said Burke.

"Leave all that to Darby," said I; "for you see he had only to whistle and bring up as many people as he liked—and so he did too; and as there was room for a cavalry regiment, the horses were soon bedded down and comfortable; and in ten minutes' time we were all sitting pleasantly round a big fire, waiting for the rashers and eggs."

"Now, if you'd like to wash your hands before dinner, Lambert, come along with me."

From the Liverpool European of July 5th.

Atlantic Steaming.

This journal has originated from the early success of Atlantic steam navigation, and its object being to supply a general summary of European intelligence, on the occasion of the steamers' departures, we should be wanting in one of our most important duties did we neglect the opportunities afforded by their continuous sailings to give our readers information as to the progressive advancement of the great enterprise now so actively engaged in working for the good of our respective nations. To look back on the past, and consider the almost incredible changes that have been wrought in our united intercourse, who is there that is unimpressed with a sense of their value? Can any one be acquainted with the true character of what has already been done, or entirely ignorant of the increasing good yet possible to be developed from this fertilizing source? Hitherto our expectations have been more than exceeded in what has taken place, and in regard to the future we see no bounds to the vast beneficial results yet to follow the efficient working of these North American Mail Steamers across the Western Ocean.

Since the issue of our last number, a most marvellous steam passage has been effected from America to England, a passage which outstrips all the many great accomplishments that have preceded, and which confirms the power of steam in a manner that must convince even the most dubious. The passage of the Columbia steamer to England is an era in steam navigation, showing, as it does, that with increased and continued duty, the steamers go on progressively improving, and that so far from the slightest manifestation of less effective management than was observable at the outset, there is a constant infusion of renewing energy, and most vigorous power of execution, in every feature of their conduct and regulation. It is, indeed, most gratifying that the opponents of these enterprises have been utterly disappointed in their prognostications as to a continuation of success; and the friends of extended commercial progress have equal cause for delight, in knowing that steam voyages between the countries, if properly supported and encouraged, will not only go on in their career of usefulness, but that in proportion to the increase of support awarded, so also will be their determined spirit of continued energetic success.

Nothing can exceed the universal feeling of pleasure which has marked this latest notable feat of the Columbia home; and when we tell our readers that in eleven and a half days from the time of American papers being printed, the same journals and part of the mails were actually delivered in London, we know they must join in rendering all just praise to that admirable system of efficiency which could bring about such a marvellous consummation. The whole mercantile body of England, and the continent of Europe, were perfectly amazed at so early a delivery of their correspondence; and, although we have now gradually become accustomed to extreme regularity of communication, and to constant and invariably quick steam passages, yet we must confess, that to hear of a vessel crossing the mighty Atlantic Ocean in nine days and a half, does, certainly, give rise to ideas that some supermundane sort of influence must be brought to bear, in order to preserve such a rate of speed. Perhaps the most remarkable, and certainly not the least desirable, point in the matter, is the perfect order and effective strength which the steamers show on the termination of their passages. The machinery is always in a most perfect and complete state, no straining or appearance of overworking; every thing seems to go on with precision and exactness; and the frameworks of these noble monuments of marine architecture, are now serving as models of excellence to all parties interested in the direction of steam vessels. When the Columbia arrived, after her recent passage of nine days and a half, she was in the most perfect condition, and the most scrutinizing eye could not observe but that she was entering upon an outward passage, rather than just returned after perfecting the greatest feat of speed ever recorded.

In England these unvarying rapid passages are producing their natural result in the minds of all observers; and we can safely trust the fairness and candor of the American public to deal justly, and assist in supporting such enterprises. The American press is now so rapidly rising in power, and widening its sphere of usefulness to such a vast extent, will do its duty in keeping the citizens rightly informed as to the good yet to be attained from steam communication with Great Britain; as also to dispel those fears which have been allowed to operate, preventing persons the enjoyment of those advantages which such a certain and speedy mode of transit offers to them. The entire American press is deeply interested in this subject. It is a matter of vital importance to its increasing success, that such regularity should be maintained, and that the efforts of mechanical skill should be bound up and united, as well as zealously aided, by the newspapers of both countries. An immense increase is already shown in the demand on this side, for American papers and publications, since the running of the steamers. Each of these North American steamers brings over loads of them; and as steam goes on prospering, so will our friends of the press find new fields open to them on this side, and will also derive equal benefit in the continued receipt of their European intelligence, which will be looked for with greater interest on account of its regularity of arrival, and by an immensely increased host of readers, sure to be attracted by such a cause. Let us then pull, as one man, in a matter that so deeply interests us all; let there be no trifling bickerings on minor interests, but a general determination to aid in the one great and important purpose for which these steamers are established.

GALLANTRY.—A lad of twelve or thirteen years of age, a son of Mr. Wm. B. Janvier, of Newcastle, Del., was saved from death on Monday last, at that town, by the gallantry of a young officer, Passed Midshipman Reel, of the U. S. Navy—a grandson, we are informed, of Commodore Truxton. The boy, while bathing on the shore below the Railroad Wharf, was carried off by the furious flood tide, and swept near the wharf. He was seen to be in a drowning condition, and the alarm was given; when Mr. Reel, being on the wharf, immediately leaped into the river, swam to the spot, dived after the boy, who had sunk, apparently for the last time, and brought him safely to the shore. We have understood that another gentleman, William H. Rogers, Esq., of Newcastle, who was on the wharf, jumped almost at the same time, in the same errand of humanity; but the honor of saving the boy's life fell to the young officer, who has proved himself a worthy descendant of his noble old ancestor.

[U. S. Gaz.]

THE MARSHES IRON MOUNTAIN IN MASSACHUSETTS.—The most extraordinary instance of magnetic attraction we have heard of, yet is that an eagle flying over this mountain had all the nails drawn out of his toes.

IN PURSUANCE of an Order of the Surrogate of the County of New York, Notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against John Barker, late of the City of New York, deceased, to present the same, with the vouchers thereon, to the undersigned, at his office, No. 134 Nassau street, in the City of New York, on or before the Twentieth day of January next.

Dated New York, the fifteenth day of July, 1912.

JOHN BARKER, Administrator.

IN PURSUANCE of an Order of the Surrogate of the County of New York, Notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against William Barker, late of the City of New York, deceased, to present the same, with the vouchers thereon, to the undersigned, at his office, No. 134 Nassau street, in the City of New York, on or before the Twentieth day of January next.

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